



**For Immediate Release
February 18, 2009**

**Media Contact:
Keith Root
305-375-1452**

kxr@miamidade.gov

New Building Code requirements bring water-use efficiency

(Miami-Dade County, Florida) – All buildings constructed in Miami-Dade County are now required to follow new standards for installing more efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances. The high-efficiency fixtures follow the model adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Sense Program.

By using the latest technology, new homes will use up to 31% less water than homes with older fixtures installed. Residential renovation projects that are greater than 50% of the structure's market value will also be required to follow the new construction standards.

The Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners amended the County Code (Chapters 8 and 32) to protect our natural resources while providing water for the future through efficient use. The ordinance encourages developers and builders to make every effort to use the most efficient water saving technology available for the specific building type of new construction.

"We must change the way we manage our water resources," said Commissioner Natacha Seijas, sponsor of the legislative changes. "Efficient use of water makes good economic sense year round. Conservation measures are the best way to ensure a sufficient water supply for our residents and visitors."

The ordinance also requires the installation of sub-meters for each individual unit in a multi-family residential building. For developments of regional impact (those with a projected water demand of 1 million gallons per day or more), the feasibility of alternative water supplies will be evaluated.

A new standards manual, developed by the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department's Water-Use Efficiency Section in consultation and collaboration with the Miami-Dade Planning Department, other County departments, State agencies and an Advisory Committee of stakeholders, is now available online (http://www.miamidade.gov/conservation/new_construction.asp) to guide architects and builders. The website also provides lists of fixtures, suppliers, and manufacturers.

The manual provides specific code changes regarding high efficiency flow rate requirements for bathroom and kitchen fixtures. It also provides additional guidance and recommendations for new development in Miami-Dade County with the intent of achieving the maximum water savings in new residential and commercial developments.

"By using water more efficiently through sustainable design and construction, we can all help to preserve water supplies for future generations, save money, and protect the environment," said Charles Danger, P.E., Miami-Dade County Building Department Director and Building Official, Unincorporated Miami-Dade County.

###